

Amendments to the Drawings:

Fig. 10 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
Replacement Sheet

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: THE OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to commonly owned USP 6,899,479 to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

RE: ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 5 and 7 is respectfully acknowledged.

New claims 8 and 9 have been added to recite the subject matter of claims 5 and 7, respectively, in independent form. In preparing new claims 8 and 9, the informalities in the original claims pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 8 and 9 are in condition for immediate allowance.

RE: THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 10 has been amended to be labeled as "Prior Art" as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

RE: THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

RE: CLAIMS 1-7

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the connecting mechanism removably connects the second unit to the first unit such that the first unit supports the second unit and the printing section and the cutter section are operable when the second unit is connected to the first unit, and such that the second unit is removable from the first unit to be completely separate from the first unit.

See, for example, Fig. 6.

In addition, claims 1-7 have also been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

In particular, claim 3 has been amended to clarify that the axes of the plurality of connecting shafts mounted are substantially orthogonal to a guide direction along which the paper is guided along the guide path, so as to clarify that

claim 3 does not recite the paper guide recited in claim 5, as suggested by the Examiner.

In addition, claim 3 has been amended to recite the "plurality of support sections" as "a plurality of shaft support sections" to clarify that the shaft support sections of claim 3 are not the same as the unit support section of claim 2, as suggested by the Examiner. In this connection, it should be noted that the unit support section recited in claim 2 corresponds to the support frame 2 to which lower unit 33 is attached by screw 37.

Still further, claim 5 has been amended to avoid the term "sandwiched" as required by the Examiner.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-7 be approved and entered, and that the claim objections be withdrawn.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,833,380 ("Hosomi et al"), and claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,447,187 ("Robinson"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a printer unit is provided which comprises:

a guide path which guides paper; a printing section having a platen and a printhead located opposite to each other with the guide path interposed therebetween; and a cutter section, which includes a stationary blade and a movable blade located opposite to each other with the guide path interposed therebetween, and which cuts paper printed at the printing section by engaging the movable blade with the stationary blade. As recited in amended independent claim 1, the printer unit also comprises a first unit located on one side of the guide path and including either one of the platen and the printhead and either one of the stationary blade and the movable blade; and a second unit located on the other side of the guide path and including the other one of the platen and the printhead and the other one of the stationary blade and the movable blade. Still further, as recited in amended independent claim 1, a connecting mechanism removably connects the second unit to the first unit such that the first unit supports the second unit and the printing section and the cutter section are operable when the second unit is connected to the first unit, and such that the second unit is removable from the first unit to be completely separate from the first unit.

Thus, according to the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, the second unit is supported by the first unit and is freely and completely removable from the first unit. With this structure, the printer

unit can be easily disassembled to access components for maintenance.

By contrast, it is respectfully pointed out that both Hosomi et al and Robinson disclose printer structures in which the upper unit is hinged to the lower unit. See, for example, Fig. 5 and column 5, lines 2-5 of Hosomi et al, which show and describe that a cover frame 8 is fixed to a main frame 7 by studs 12 so that the cover frame 8 can pivot with respect to the mainframe 7 about the studs 12. And see also Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 53-58 of Robinson, which show and describe that a moving chassis 30 is fixed to a fixed chassis 20 by a pivot 100 so that the moving chassis 30 can pivot with respect to the fixed chassis 20 about the pivot 100 (see).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Hosomi et al and Robinson merely disclose printer units in which one frame is rotatably fixed to another frame, such as the printer unit described in the Background of the Invention portion of the present application, and as shown in Prior Art Fig. 10 of the present application. The disadvantage of such arrangements, in which the various components are fixed together, is that it is necessary to disassemble the printer to perform maintenance, as explained at page 3, lines 8-13 of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that neither Hosomi et al nor Robinson disclose, teach or suggest a connection

mechanism as recited in amended independent claim 1, which removably connects the second unit to the first unit such that the first unit supports the second unit and the printing section and the cutter section are operable when the second unit is connected to the first unit, and such that the second unit is removable from the first unit to be completely separate from the first unit.

It is also noted that the Examiner asserts on page 7 of the Office Action that notches 25 of Robinson correspond to "unit support sections" corresponding to the unit support section recited in claim 2. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the unit support section recited in claim 2 is a unit support section on which the first unit is removably supported (and as recited in amended independent claim 1 the first unit supports the second unit). Thus, the unit support section of claim 2 corresponds to, for example, the support frame 2 described in the specification.

Thus, notches 25 of Robinson clearly do not correspond to a unit support section as recited in claim 2, since the notches 25 of Robinson could be considered only to support, at most, the movable chassis 30, which the Examiner asserts is the unit of Robinson corresponding to the second unit of claim 1 (i.e. the removable unit that is supported by the first unit).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, and amended claims 2-7 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Hosomi et al and Robinson, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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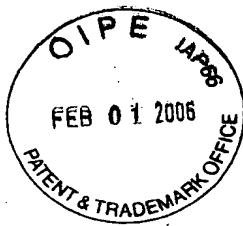


Fig. 10
Prior Art

